



EMC News

June 1, 2005

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REMINDER – THE EMC MEETING WILL BEGIN AT 6:30PM (A HALF AN HOUR EARLIER).

WEBSITE COMMITTEE

Submitted by Keith Epstein

The development of the new EMC website is proceeding on schedule, and the committee will be previewing it at the June meeting. The plan is to take suggestions at the meeting, then incorporate any changes and get it online within 2 weeks. We are in need of pictures from past EMC events. If you have any (print or digital) that you would be willing to share, please contact Keith Epstein at keithepstein@gmail.com.

OPEN BURNING COMMITTEE

Submitted by Glynn Bebee

I'm happy to report that the "If You're Smellin' it, You're Breathin' It!" public meeting held on May 19th has been considered a success by committee members and by most (if not all) of the attendees. In summary, the majority of the opinions expressed at the event favored and supported recent efforts to reduce emissions from Residential Open Burning of Household Waste.

While most supported tougher rules, there were objections from some attendees that did well to identify the obstacles and potentially impractical aspects of a ban. The most common concern involved costs and low-income individuals.

Though not a complete collection of thoughts expressed at the event, the following items were some of the more noteworthy:

- Consider including "Fire Hazards" in education literature about Open Burning practices
- Social Services should fund or subsidize trash pickup for low-income households
- Subsidies could be time-limited and start could coincide with any changes to the law
- Many identified the inherent poor logic of attempting to quantify health effects

vs. economic costs associated with trash removal

- Individuals that currently practice Open Burning should be polled to fully detail the problems and any potential solutions
- Education about Open Burning impacts should start with children and in our schools
- There are many examples that identify the EPA and DEC are in favor of reducing emissions from Open Burning – Many would like to see expanded recycling and composting efforts within cost and technical reason

The Tompkins County Board of Health meets again on June 14th at Noon and is set to revisit the potential wording of any proposed changes to the Sanitary Code in regard to Open Burning of Household Waste. A decision could come as early as that meeting and your presence could help influence this process. Please consider attending to voice your thoughts on this issue.

TOWN OF NEWFIELD MUNICIPAL REPORT

Submitted by Cindy Schulte

Water District II update: The Newfield Water District II project is progressing. Borings will be done in June to further design for the placement of the water tanks. A construction trailer has been moved to the Fire Hall site, and is awaiting the bond permit to be issued from N.Y.S.D.O.T. before construction can begin on the well sites and tank sites.

Review of Laws pertaining to Junk cars: The Town Board, in response to continuous complaints about junk cars and unclean conditions at a local repair shop, is considering passing a local law limiting the number of unregistered vehicles a repair shop can legally have on the premises of the business. Neighbors claim there to be health hazards, as well as aesthetic problems. The Town Board has continuously referred this particular complainant to the State, with no resolution. There is public concern over this issue as almost anyone can get a license for a repair shop and accumulate unregistered vehicles as parts stock, and for resale of parts or repair using used parts.

more News! ➡

ANNUAL DEC UPDATE MEETING

Every year the New York State Association of EMCs sponsors a day-long event with DEC staff to provide relevant and timely information on DEC projects, programs and legislative agenda. This is a rare, intimate opportunity to meet proactively with DEC Division heads and learn about new programs that will affect the quality of the State's environment – and meet people from other EMCs throughout the state!

June 27, 2005
10am-4pm (Lunch provided)
DEC Albany Headquarters

Topics to be covered include chronic wasting disease, recreational use plans, hazardous waste siting, wetlands, water quality, the bottle bill and more. An agenda will be distributed prior to the meeting.

If you want to attend, or want to carpool, please contact Heather at 274-5560, or hfiliberto@tompkins-co.org.

NO COMMITTEE REPORT SUBMITTED

Energy
Environmental Review
Education
UNA

2006 NYS OPEN SPACE CONSERVATION PLAN

Submitted by Heather Filiberto

The Region 7 Open Space Committee began meeting in late April to make recommendations for projects to be included in the 2006 NYS Open Space Conservation Plan. The Committee was convened in a very short timeframe to meet a late June deadline for recommendations. Following is a summary of the areas recommend for Tompkins County, most of which are expanded from areas currently listed in the 2002 NYS Open Space Plan. They are based on detailed analysis done for preparation of the County Comprehensive Plan.

Proposed Projects in Tompkins County

Fall Creek Fens and Forests: TC Planning Dept. proposed (expansion of a project listed in the 2002 Open Space Plan). Groton, Dryden, Village of Freeville, Town of Cortlandville in Cortland County. This project envisions buffering and expanding the significant protected landholdings of The Nature Conservancy's O.D. von Engeln

Preserve at Malloryville, the Finger Lakes Land Trust's Thurber Preserve, Lime Hollow Center for Environment and Culture, Cornell University's Restricted Natural Areas, and the McLean Bogs National Natural Landmark.

State Parks Greenbelt – Tompkins County (revised boundary): TC Planning Dept and State Parks proposed (combines two projects listed in the 2002 NYS Open Space Plan). Ulysses, Enfield, Newfield, Danby, Ithaca, City of Ithaca, Village of Trumansburg. The project consists of linking the four state parks (Robert H. Treman, Buttermilk Falls, Taughannock Falls, and Allan H. Treman) located in Tompkins County with a multi-use trail and protecting the parks and surrounding important natural features from encroachment and development.

Undeveloped Finger Lakes Shoreline: Finger Lakes Land Trust proposed. Lansing, Ithaca, Ulysses, selective acquisition, as well as the use of conservation easements can protect sensitive shoreline habitats and, in some cases, provide public access.

The Emerald Necklace: Finger Lakes Land Trust proposed. Dryden, Caroline, Danby, Newfield, Enfield, stretching in an arc surrounding Ithaca, thousands of acres of public land provide excellent recreational opportunities as well as large blocks of forest habitat required by a variety of wildlife species, including neotropical songbirds.

Connecticut Hill Area, Schuyler and Tompkins Counties: Audubon NY proposed. Newfield and Enfield, 26,500 acres once marginal farmland now high-elevation forest; the core area is owned by DEC, but it is surrounded by privately owned properties. Species at risk are Northern Goshawk, and eleven "responsibility species."

See you at the next EMC meeting!

September 8th at 6:30pm

Members: Remember to notify the

Chair if you will be absent!

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